

March 9, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, I don't know what the answer is in the terms of the mill levy of Omaha but last year I predicted that across the state the average mill levy increase would be about five, when we were talking about a similar bill. I didn't miss it very far. I predicted for Omaha almost six mills. They went up 5.75 mills and now I will predict again. The City of Omaha is going to face a mill levy increase of somewhere around that figure and possibly a little more. I merely am here to talk to the Cavanaugh amendment and I wish we would get back to it. What we are talking about is possibly relieving Omaha of at least two mills in terms of a capital outlay of money. Whatever the figures are beyond that, that is something that we are going to have to take care of later on. I am only here to, once more, reinforce what Senator Lewis said a moment ago. I have a moral commitment to Omaha and to students wherever they are in this state. By the same token, I have a moral commitment to all schools as well. If we take two and a half million dollars out of fifteen million, that immediately means there is thirteen million left to be distributed among the schools. This, in turn, is a rather harsh blow to other schools as well. I cannot support this. My amendment, as placed in the Journal, is this and I will restate it once more. Two and a half million dollars continued upon a seventeen and a half million dollar state aid bill. That is the way I am going to support it. That is my commitment. If we do not get that, I want to remind you that in the bill if you adopt the amendments that I talked to earlier which now have been lost in all the rhetoric and confusion, Omaha will still receive approximately \$675,000 annually to help defray the cost of transportation. These are the facts as well as I know them. Hopefully, it will bring the body back to the issue at hand which is the Cavanaugh amendment which is two and a half million dollars out of the fifteen million that we are presently talking about in the state aid bill, and that leaves twelve and a half for distribution as Senator Barnett so correctly stated it just now.

PRESIDENT: There has been a call for the question. Do I see five seconds? I do. The question is, shall debate now cease? Record your vote. Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I do think that we went quite far afield in discussion of this amendment but I do think that this amendment is one of the fundamental questions to be resolved in this session of the Legislature. First of all, Senator Koch and Senator Lewis have